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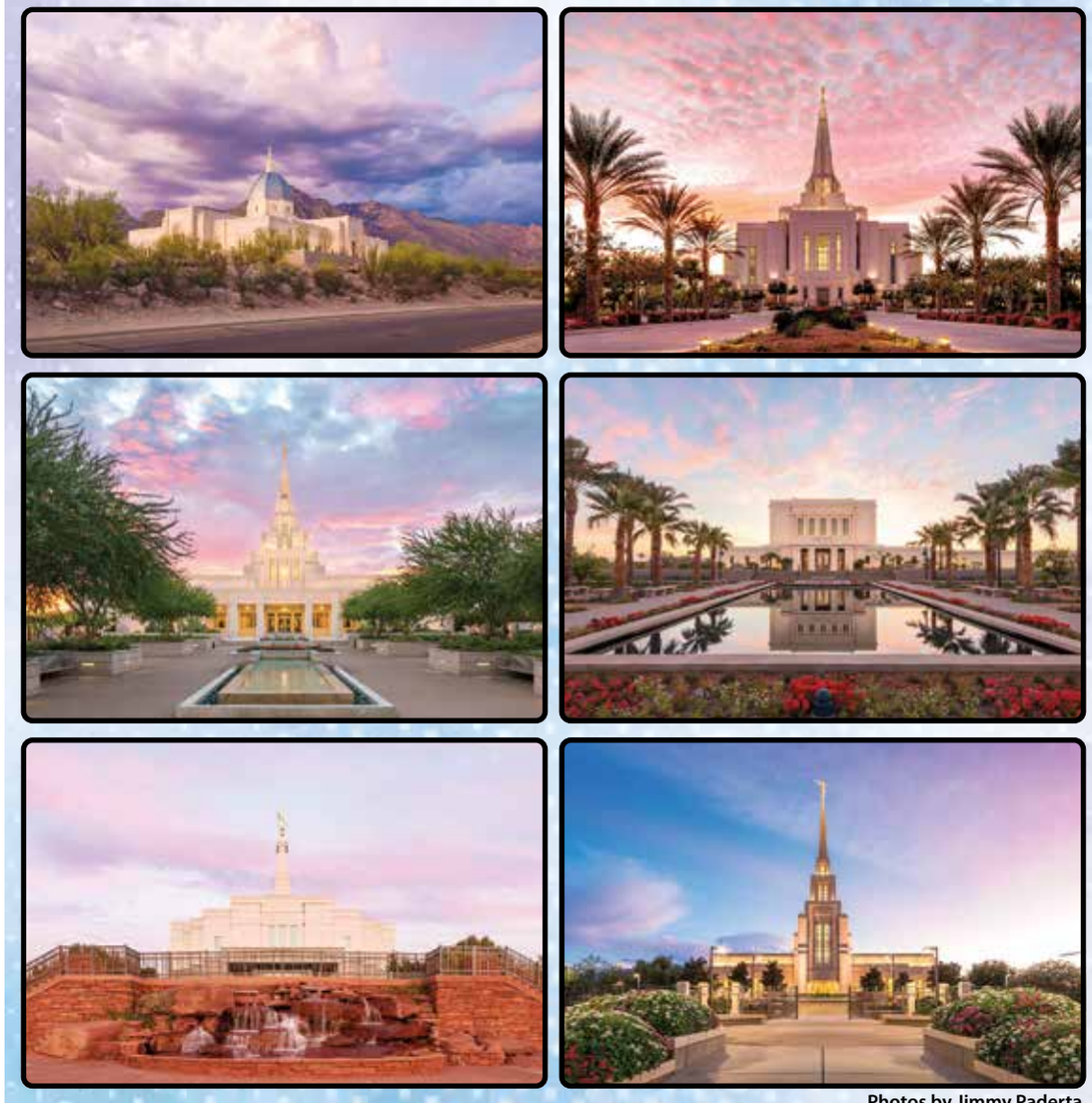
Vol 49 | Issue #3 May–June 2023

The Arizona Beehive Magazine

Serving Arizona Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



Photos by Jimmy Paderta

133 Temples Announced!

Russell M. Nelson Announces the 133rd Temple of His Presidency

ON THE COVER

Six Arizona temples.

Photos by Jimmy Paderta

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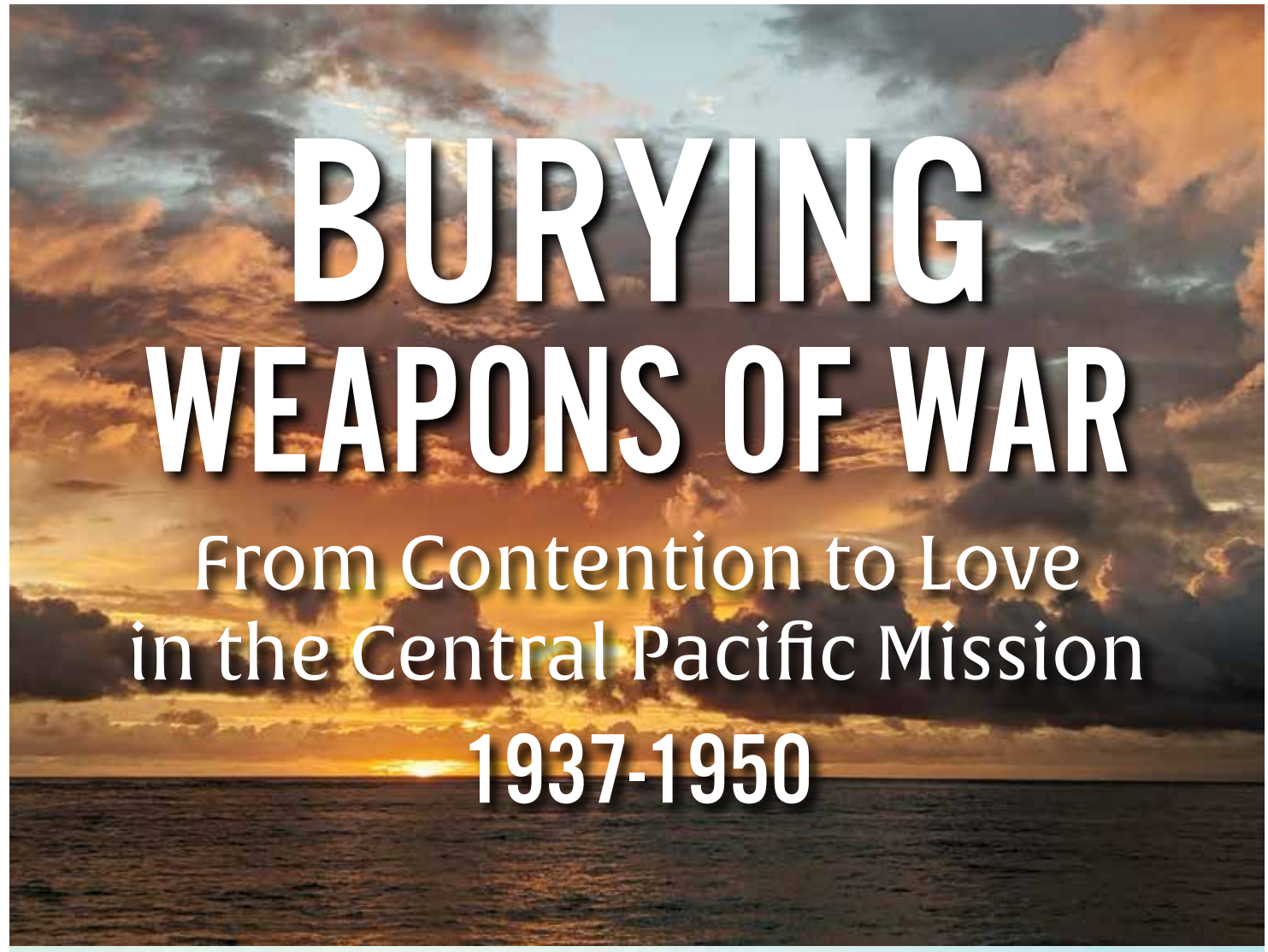

BURYING WEAPONS OF WAR

From Contention to Love in the Central Pacific Mission 1937-1950

Photo Courtesy of Emily Boyle

By Emily Jex Boyle

"The islands here of Hawai'i are the spearhead thrust out to the Pacific, and from the point of that spearhead…there will radiate lines of spiritual communication of the heavenly work."

In his most recent General Conference address, President Russell M. Nelson said: "If you are serious about helping to gather Israel and about building relationships that will last throughout the eternities, now is the time to lay aside bitterness…Now is the time to bury your weapons of war." The need to overcome contention through diligent application of true principles of peace, taught by the modern-day prophet is nothing new. None are immune to conflict passing through this vale of tears. Fortunately, the antidote for conflict is renewable, globally accessible and never fails.

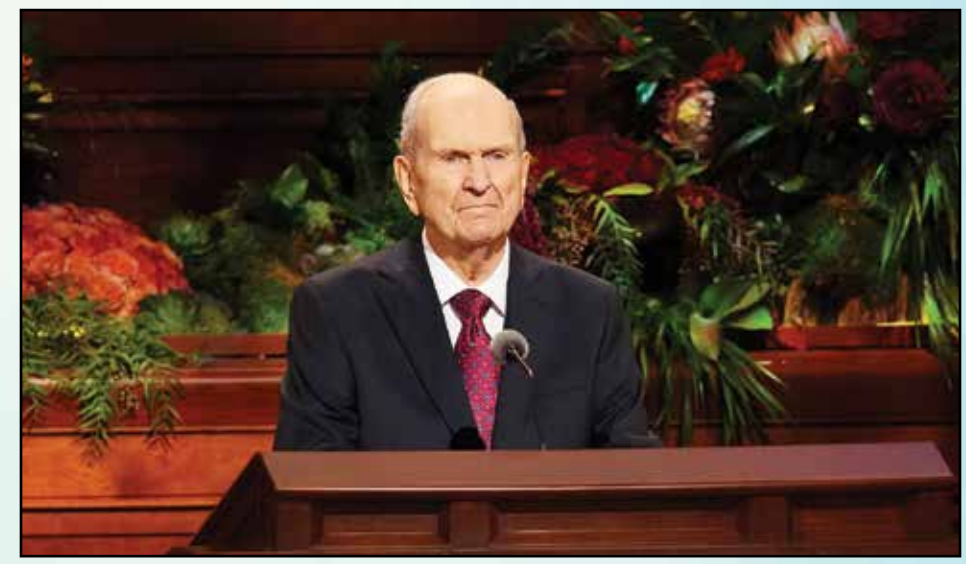

Photo courtesy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

President Russell M. Nelson declares "Now is the time to bury your weapons of war."

In the years surrounding World War II, accounts recorded from missionaries and members of the Central Pacific Mission and O'ahu stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Hawaiian Islands are full of inspiring examples of faith and charity. These examples attest of everyday Latter-Day Saints who navigated contention that sunk the USS Arizona, kept captives in prison camps, waged deadly battles and cankered souls with resentment.

In 1927, following a devastating earthquake and other challenges, the 20-year-old Japan mission was temporarily closed by the President of the Church, Heber J. Grant. In Hawai'i in 1935, the O'ahu stake was created, the first stake outside of North America. This stake would serve many cultures, but it was clear that President Grant had not forgotten the work to be done amongst the Japanese. At the occasion, President Grant prophesied that "from this place--we will send well prepared leaders to take charge of the mission in Japan and their own people will listen to their teachings." This came at a time when Japan was heading headlong into world war.

President J. Reuben Clark, member of the Church's first presidency, also spoke saying, "The islands here of Hawai'i are the spearhead thrust out to the Pacific, and from the point of that spearhead…there will radiate lines of spiritual communication of the heavenly work we are doing and purpose of which will be to spread the gospel in these foreign countries which lie to the East and South so

Continued on pg. 5

What's The Buzz?

Forgiveness, Even If You Don't Love Me Anymore

This may come as a shock to you, our wonderful Arizona Beehive Magazine reader: We are not perfect. There. I said it!

Some of you may have noticed a bit of a faux pau in our last issue's recipe. At least two readers reached out with stern (one scathing) rebukes of our apparent mission to lead Members astray by asking them to purchase not-Word of Wisdom-friendly ingredients called for in the recipe. In an attempt to provide something a bit more sophisticated than homemade bread or Jello salad, noticing these ingredients was completely missed. I blame our Editor. They blew it, and I apologize for that. (By the way - I am also our magazine's editor.)

I genuinely felt bad about this. We certainly work hard to bring Church member friendly content with each issue, and are very much not looking to lead anyone astray. (Except maybe astray from that tired Jello salad.)

Right about the time I was enjoying the notes sent to us about this issue, I came upon the Come Follow Me app (highly recommended app) scripture of the day: "Judge not, and ye shall not be judged; condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned; Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven." (Luke 6:37)

I needed to hear this because I was upset that people actually thought we were intentionally asking members to stray from Gospel teachings. I was in a mood to judge and condemn, and was certainly in no mood to forgive. But, as usual, by staying in touch with our core beliefs and applying them to our lives, such attitudes are exposed as not-Christ-like. And motivation to become better manifests itself. Every single thing we hear about how this all works is true. My heart softened. My attitude changed. And understanding from my reader's perspective was realized.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland notes that "forgiving and forsaking offenses, old or new, is CENTRAL to the grandeur of the Atonement of Jesus Christ… that renewal and rebirth, a future free from old sorrows and past mistakes, are not only possible, but they have already been purchased, paid for, at an excruciating cost symbolized by the blood of the Lamb who shed it." (The Ministry of Reconciliation: Oct 2018 General Conference). Marvelous perspective…

So, three lessons came from this experience: 1) Proof read better our recipes. 2) Seek understanding first from anyone accusing us of wrong doing. 3) The last issue recipe tastes great without the controversial ingredients. All is well…

Thank you for reading!

Michael O'Brien
Publisher

The Arizona Beehive Magazine

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Burying Weapons of War

Continued from pg. 2

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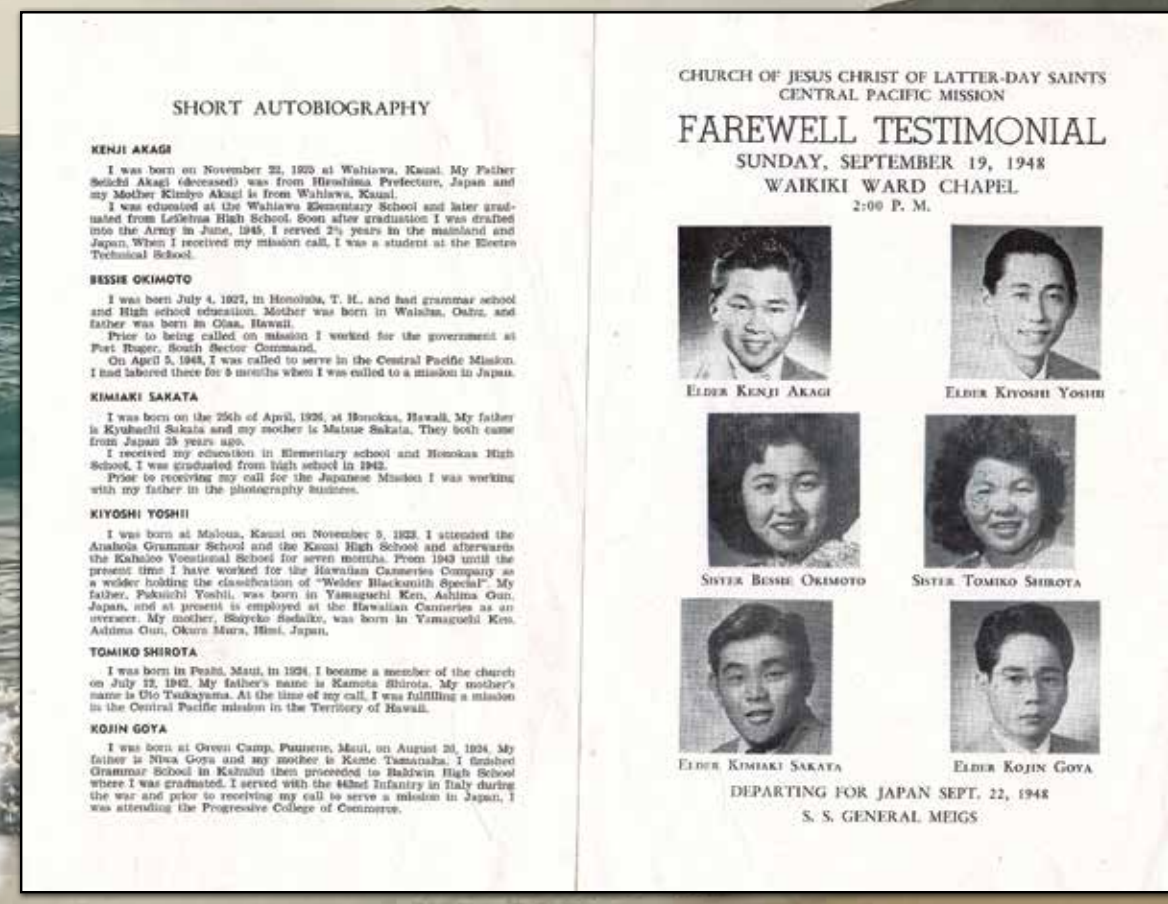

SHORT AUTOBIOGRAPHY

KENJI AKAGI

I was born on November 22, 1925 at Wahiawa, Kauai. My Father Seiichi Akagi (deceased) was from Hiroshima Prefecture, Japan and my Mother Kimiyo Akagi is from Wahiawa, Kauai.

I was educated at the Wahiawa Elementary School and later graduated from Leilehua High School. Soon after graduation I was drafted into the Army in June, 1945. I served 2½ years in the mainland and Japan. When I received my mission call, I was a student at the Electro Technical School.

BESSIE OKIMOTO

I was born July 4, 1927, in Honolulu, T. H., and had grammar school and High school education. Mother was born in Waialua, Oahu, and father was born in Olaa, Hawaii.

Prior to being called on mission I worked for the government at Fort Ruger, South Sector Command.

On April 5, 1948, I was called to serve in the Central Pacific Mission. I had labored there for 9 months when I was called to a mission in Japan.

KIMIAKI SAKATA

I was born on the 25th of April, 1926, at Honokaa, Hawaii. My father is Kyuhachi Sakata and my mother is Matsue Sakata. They both came from Japan 35 years ago.

I received my education in Elementary school and Honokaa High School. I was graduated from high school in 1942.

Prior to receiving my call for the Japanese Mission I was working with my father in the photography business.

KIYOSHI YOSHII

I was born at Maloea, Kauai on November 5, 1923. I attended the Anahola Grammar School and the Kauai High School and afterwards the Kahaleo Vocational School for seven months. From 1943 until the present time I have worked for the Hawaiian Canneries Company as a welder holding the classification of "Welder Blacksmith Special". My father, Fukuichi Yoshii, was born in Yamaguchi Ken, Ashima Gun, Japan, and at present is employed at the Hawaiian Canneries as an overseer. My mother, Shiyeko Sadaike, was born in Yamaguchi Ken, Ashima Gun, Okura Mura, Hirai, Japan.

TOMIKO SHIROTA

I was born in Paahi, Maui, in 1924. I became a member of the church on July 12, 1942. My father's name is Kamota Shirota. My mother's name is Uto Tsukayama. At the time of my call, I was fulfilling a mission in the Central Pacific mission in the Territory of Hawaii.

KOJIN GOYA

I was born at Green Camp, Puunene, Maui, on August 20, 1924. My father is Niwa Goya and my mother is Kame Tamanaha. I finished Grammar School in Kahului then proceeded to Baldwin High School where I was graduated. I served with the 442nd Infantry in Italy during the war and prior to receiving my call to serve a mission in Japan, I was attending the Progressive College of Commerce.

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FAREWELL TESTIMONIAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1948
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2:00 P. M.

ELDER KENJI AKAGI

ELDER KIYOSHI YOSHII

SISTER BESSIE OKIMOTO

SISTER TOMIKO SHIROTA

ELDER KIMIAKI SAKATA

ELDER KOJIN GOYA

DEPARTING FOR JAPAN SEPT. 22, 1948
S. S. GENERAL MEIGS

Photo courtesy of John Renstrom

In the years surrounding World War II, accounts recorded from missionaries and members of the Central Pacific Mission and O'ahu Stake are full of inspiring examples of faith and charity.

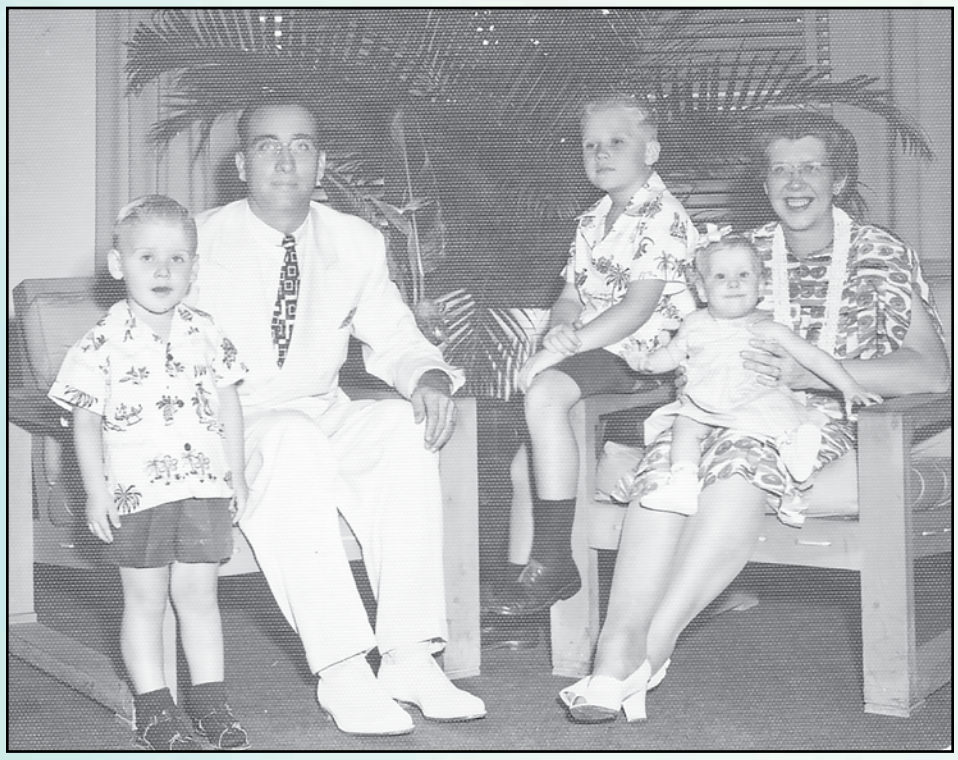

Photo courtesy of Karyn Weenig Madsen

Melvin and Georgia accepted and moved to Oahu with their two young children and presided over missionaries that were pretty close in age to themselves. Pictured left to right: Lloyd, Melvin, Paul, Karyn and Georgia Weenig.

come to a knowledge of the truth."

Impressed by the small but faithful community in Hawai'i of Japanese speaking Latter-day Saints, President Grant called for the formation of the Central Pacific Mission in 1937, focused on Japanese people living in Hawai'i with Hilton and Hazel Robertson as mission leaders. At the onset, there were 17 members in this Japanese speaking mission. Thirteen years later at its conclusion, there were over 700. Japanese youth joining the Church brought with them from their Buddhist upbringing, teachings and values such as: honor, respect, love and caring. The youth were drawn to the teachings of Christianity and activities of the Church. These new members created a solid group of faithful young adults prepared to reopen missionary work in Japan following World War II. The first missionaries called to Japan from the Central Pacific Mission were Elders Tomosue Abo and Ralph Noboru.

Chieko Okazaki, former 1st counselor in the Relief Society General Presidency joined the Church in Hawai'i during this time. At a Pioneers in the Pacific Conference held in 1997 at BYU-Hawaii, she recalls only disobeying her father once, to become a member of the Church at age fifteen without his approval. She attributes the greatest factors for missionary success in Hawai'i to be the gospel knowledge of the missionaries and the love and acceptance from fellow saints. Of the Japanese joining the Church in Hawai'i at this time, Okazaki recalls that the members, "represent an extraordinary group of people who I am convinced were called, chosen and led into the Church by great actions of the Spirit in a turning point in the history of the Church."

At the same conference, Adney Komatsu, first general authority of Asian descent, said he knew he wanted to be baptized after entering a meeting and feeling an overwhelming sense of peace he had never felt before. He made a special deal with his mother that he would quit the Church if any of his mother's friends accused him of turning into a bum.

Missionaries from the Central Pacific Mission gathered for 50 years following the closure of the mission for reunions. Accounts were recorded regularly when they came together. One story shared and recorded in a 2006 *Church News* article is of Keith Renstrom who served from 1948-1950. During World War II he battled as a U.S. Marine, at Iwo Jima and other Pacific islands. In an interview Renstrom explains, "I am a marine and I fought in World War II. I was never trained to hate the Japanese, but we did hate them, with all the hatred we could have." One Sunday, attending church as a soldier in the Pacific islands, he was stunned when he walked into the church building. "They had two Japanese missionaries talking, the second one touched my heart like nobody else has ever touched it. I felt this feeling of forgiveness coming over me. As Elder Kyoshi Sukiyama talked, I couldn't believe what he had gone through

Continued on pg. 7

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Members of the Japanese mission in Hawai'i, 1944.

Photo courtesy of the Church History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Burying Weapons of War

Continued from pg. 2

to join the Church. As I listened, I got this feeling from my head to the bottom of my shoes. I got the hatred out of my system." As he sat there, Renstrom shared, "I thought, 'Who do you think you are Keith Renstrom? Jesus Christ forgave those who killed him and they haven't killed you." Renstrom went on his mission back to the Japanese people.

Another missionary's account is that of Elder Peter Nelson Hanson. Hanson fought in the Pacific Theater and was captured early on in the war by the Japanese in the Philippines. He was a prisoner of war for years, so long in fact that he lost the use of his legs. Following the war and his release he worked to regain the use of his legs. Peter recovered enough that he was called to serve in the Central Pacific Mission. One would think that going back to serve in the very region where so much trauma had taken place would give a young person pause. Elder Hanson accepted the call and fellow missionaries remember his struggle to walk while serving in Hawai'i. That was the outward battle he had to wage to serve as a missionary. One young missionary who knew him described him as one without animosity with a heart open to the Japanese speaking saints.

Photo courtesy of John Renstrom

Master Gunnery Sergeant Keith Renstrom battled as a U.S. Marine, at Iwo Jima and other Pacific islands.

Laie Hawai'i Temple, Oahu, Hawai'i.

Photo courtesy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Elder Melvin Weenig was called to Japan as a young man but due to its closure in 1937, he was reassigned to the Central Pacific Mission on Oahu where he completed his first church mission speaking Japanese. Following his mission in Hawai'i his daughter, Karyn Madsen explains, "Exempted from military service during World War II because of his job in the grocery business, he worked a lot with Japanese farmers in the Ogden area. He cared for them. It was a part of his nature to accept and love." You can imagine his surprise when in 1946, an apostle named David O. McKay walked into Weenig's store and called him to serve as a mission president back to Melvin's old mission. Melvin and Georgia accepted and moved to Oahu with their two young children and presided over missionaries that were pretty close in age to themselves. One elder claimed there was never a dull moment with the Weenigs.

Oahu is a particularly ethnic and diverse island. The conditions there during these tumultuous years were primed for contention. From these brief accounts perhaps we can take heart in the face of personal conflict, finding hope in the possibility that we can overcome contention with charity, the pure love of Christ, applied liberally.

Photo Courtesy of Emily Boyle

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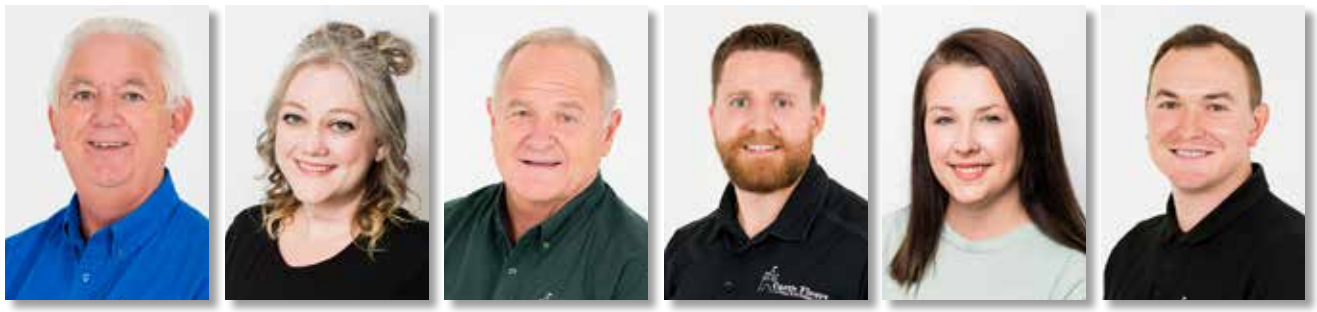

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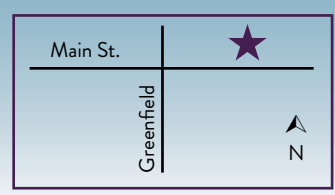

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Muddy Valley Reflections - 145 Years of Settlement

Beezy Lani-Tobiasson's Eight Year Labor of Love

by The Arizona Beehive Magazine

When visualizing Southern Nevada on our mental maps, we most likely think of Las Vegas and its surrounding burbs. Often not realized is a little valley lying north and east of Sin City. Officially titled Moapa Valley, those who live here call it Muddy Valley.

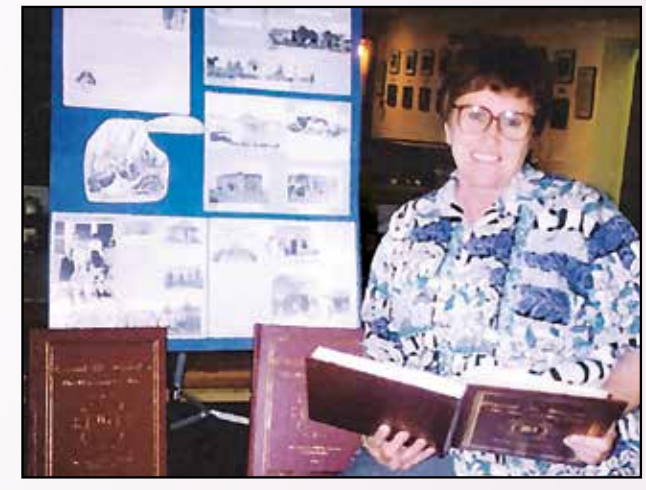
The Muddy River, formerly called the Moapa River, originates from the Warm Springs Natural Area and cuts through the valley before emptying into Lake Mead. The communities of Moapa Town, Logandale and Overton are located in the valley, along the river. Prior to the creation of Lake Mead, Moapa Valley also included the town of St. Thomas, which was abandoned in 1938 and now lies under the waters of Lake Mead. The 2010 census shows a population of 6,924 souls living in the valley. The valley itself is about 40 miles long and angling roughly northwest to southeast.

Shortly after arriving in the Salt Lake valley, Brigham Young began dispatching members of the Church to settle lands to the south. By 1864, The Muddy River valley was a focus of President

Muddy Valley located northeast of Las Vegas, NV.

Young's "Cotton Mission." Subsequently, this part of the American west has a rich pioneer history.

So rich that one woman who makes the Muddy Valley her home published a 3-volume book total-



Author Virginia "Beezy" Lani Tobiasson with her three-book set.

ing 1277 pages of material! Virginia "Beezy" Lani Tobiasson along with her colleague Georgia May Bagshaw Hill gathered, recounted and wrote about the families that pioneered, lived and still live in this part of the world.

Continued on pg. 11

Compiled by Tad Walch: Church Beat Newsletter; Thursday, April 6, 2023 issue.

133 Temples and Counting...

President Russell M. Nelson has announced 133 new temples since the April 2018 General Conference—his first as President of the Church. Below is a list of those 133 temples and the status of their progress toward completion.

3 are dedicated and operating

- **Yigo Guam Temple:** Dedicated May 22, 2022, by Elder David A. Bednar.
- **Praia Cape Verde Temple:** Dedicated June 19, 2022, by Elder Neil L. Andersen.
- **San Juan Puerto Rico Temple:** Dedicated Jan. 15, 2023, by Elder D. Todd Christofferson.

1 has an open house in progress and will be dedicated next month

- **Richmond Virginia Temple:** Open house now underway through April 15. Dedication scheduled May 7, with President Dallin H. Oaks to preside.

4 are scheduled for open house and dedication

- **Helena Montana Temple:** Open house May 18-June 3, excluding Sundays. Dedication scheduled June 18, with Elder Gary E. Stevenson to preside.
- **Moses Lake Washington Temple:** Open house Aug. 4-19, excluding Sundays. Dedication scheduled Sept. 17, 2023, with Elder Quentin L. Cook to preside.
- **Bentonville Arkansas Temple:** Open house June 17-July 1, excluding Sundays. Dedication scheduled Sept. 17, 2023, with Elder David A. Bednar to preside.
- **Feather River California Temple:** Open house Aug. 19-Sept. 9, excluding Sundays. Dedication scheduled Oct. 8, with Elder Ulisses Soares to preside.

42 are under construction

- **Puebla Mexico Temple:** Ground broken Nov. 30, 2019.
- **Layton Utah Temple:** Ground broken May 23, 2020.
- **Auckland New Zealand Temple:** Ground broken June 13, 2020.
- **San Pedro Sula Honduras Temple:** Ground broken Sept. 5, 2020.
- **Orem Utah Temple:** Ground broken Sept. 5, 2020.
- **Taylorsville Utah Temple:** Ground broken Oct. 31, 2020.
- **Salta Argentina Temple:** Ground broken Nov. 4, 2020.
- **Red Cliffs Utah Temple:** Ground broken Nov. 7, 2020.
- **Davao Philippines Temple:** Ground broken Nov. 14, 2020.
- **Cobán Guatemala Temple:** Ground broken Nov. 14, 2020.
- **McAllen Texas Temple:** Ground broken Nov. 22, 2020.
- **Antofagasta Chile Temple:** Ground broken Nov. 27, 2020.
- **Bengaluru India Temple:** Ground broken Dec. 2, 2020.
- **Okinawa Japan Temple:** Ground broken Dec. 5, 2020.
- **Mendoza Argentina Temple:** Ground broken Dec. 17, 2020.
- **Deseret Peak Utah Temple:** Ground broken May 15, 2021.
- **Tallahassee Florida Temple:** Ground broken June 5, 2021.
- **Syracuse Utah Temple:** Ground broken June 12, 2021.
- **Salvador Brazil Temple:** Ground broken Aug. 7, 2021.
- **Pittsburgh Pennsylvania Temple:** Ground broken Aug. 21, 2021.
- **Neiafu Tonga Temple:** Ground broken Sept. 11, 2021.
- **Phnom Penh Cambodia Temple:** Ground broken Sept. 18, 2021.
- **Casper Wyoming Temple:** Ground broken Oct. 9, 2021.
- **Pago Pago American Samoa Temple:** Ground broken Oct. 31, 2021.
- **Bacolod Philippines Temple:** Ground broken Dec. 11, 2021.
- **Freetown Sierra Leone Temple:** Ground broken March 19, 2022.
- **Bahía Blanca Argentina Temple:** Ground broken April 9, 2022.
- **Grand Junction Colorado Temple:** Ground broken April 16, 2022.
- **Lindon Utah Temple:** Ground broken April 23, 2022.
- **Farmington New Mexico Temple:** Ground broken April 30, 2022.
- **Elko Nevada Temple:** Ground broken May 8, 2022.
- **Burley Idaho Temple:** Ground broken June 4, 2022.
- **Smithfield Utah Temple:** Ground broken June 18, 2022.
- **Yorba Linda California Temple:** Ground broken June 18, 2022.
- **Lubumbashi Democratic Republic of the Congo Temple:** Ground broken Aug. 22, 2022.
- **Ephraim Utah Temple:** Ground broken Aug. 27, 2022.
- **Heber Valley Utah Temple:** Ground broken Oct. 8, 2022.
- **Willamette Valley Oregon Temple:** Ground broken Oct. 29, 2022.
- **Managua Nicaragua Temple:** Ground broken Nov. 26, 2022.
- **Miraflores Guatemala City Guatemala Temple:** Ground broken Dec. 3, 2022.
- **Torreón Mexico Temple:** Ground broken Dec. 10, 2022.
- **Querétaro Mexico Temple:** Ground broken Jan. 7, 2023.
- **Port Vila Vanuatu Temple:** Ground broken April 8, 2023.
- **Port Moresby Papua New Guinea Temple:** Ground broken April 22, 2023

2 are scheduled for groundbreaking ceremonies

- **Montpelier Idaho Temple:** Groundbreaking scheduled for June 17, 2023
- **Belo Horizonte Brazil Temple:** Groundbreaking scheduled for June 17, 2023

Of the remaining 79 temples:

- **28 have identified locations.**
- **26 are in the planning-and-design phase.**
- **15 are freshly announced.**

The church is still completing temples announced prior to President Nelson's administration. For example, the public open house for the Saratoga Springs Utah Temple began April 15.

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A White Hand-Tatted Tablecloth

By Barbara Lavick VanCott

An unexpected need at church made me realize that our treasured tablecloth had a higher purpose than I originally thought.

As a Jewish convert to the Church, my knowledge of Jesus Christ was very limited. After embracing the gospel, I grew to love my Savior.

While attending Brigham Young University, I met my sweetheart and we were married in the Salt Lake Temple. Shortly after, we opened our wedding gifts. A Relief Society sister in my husband's home ward had given us a beautiful white hand-tatted tablecloth. The pattern was elegant. It represented hours of labor.

I lifted it up and placed it over my heart. "Oh, Bobby," I said. "This is a treasure. I can feel the love from this sister in every stitch. Someday, when we can afford a dining room table, we'll display it in our home." I carefully wrapped and stored it.

Two years later, when Bobby graduated as a schoolteacher, he received a job offer in Vermont, USA. Without hesitation, we decided he should accept the position. It felt like the Lord was sending us.

Soon after arriving in Barre, Vermont, we learned that the Latter-day Saints met in a dusty old event hall for men. Prior to Church meetings, members had to clear away beer cans and cigarette butts from festivities held the night before.

Ten months later, my husband was called to be the branch president. While conducting his first meeting, he glanced over at the sacrament table. He looked troubled. The sacrament trays were covered with a dingy, yellowing white sheet.

The following Sunday morning, Bobby pulled out our beautiful white hand-tatted tablecloth, still wrapped in its protective covering. "Barbie, what do you think?" he asked, with tender pleading in his eyes.

I knew what he was thinking. He wanted our tablecloth for the sacrament table—the very cloth I had envisioned on our dining room table someday. I bit my lip. "It's perfect," I said. "The perfect covering for the emblems of the sacrament."

As a branch president, Bobby could have ordered a cloth, and it would have been perfectly acceptable. But at that moment, we both knew we wanted to make this offering. It still wasn't an easy sacrifice, but my Savior had sacrificed for me with the gift of His Atonement. The cloth now had a higher purpose.

A few years later, the members began to meet in a beautiful new chapel on a hillside. And just as we had felt sent to Barre, we felt it was time for us to leave. Our hearts were full and ached with love for the members we had served with.

As we packed our things, now with three children, to go west, we left behind the white hand-tatted tablecloth covering the sacrament. It was no longer ours. It was the Lord's. It was our gift to the Savior.

Muddy Valley Reflections

Continued from pg. 8

The result is a printed work titled *Muddy Valley Reflections: 145 Years of Settlement, Vols 1-3.* Each book is packed with stories, maps, family

Virginia "Beezy" Lani Tobiasson.

biographies, census records, cemetery lists, town histories, photographs and memories. It is an exemplary work of

Continued on pg. 21

Spreading the Gospel in His Own Way

Elder Gibson Porter

By Kathi Ogden

Photo courtesy of Brynn Porter

Elder Gibson Porter.

Gibson Porter is a missionary serving in the Queen Creek Service Mission. He was born with a rare form of Cerebral Palsy that affects the function of his mouth and his speaking abilities. He's also mostly deaf in one ear, but none of this has slowed him down much if at all.

Gibson has been using a speaking device ever since he was in preschool. As technology has advanced, he has, too, and is now using a Proloque4Text app on his iPad, which has intuitive word and sentence prediction capabilities, to help him out. While using his app he nods affirmatively for the positive, shakes his head no for things he doesn't like and occasionally chuckles at his own jokes. He drives, he plays basketball and gets straight A's in school.

His parents, Chase and Brynn Porter, have raised him to be very independent and fully expected him to be sent out on a teaching mission, just like his older brother, Nash, who had previously left in August, 2021, to serve a mission in Washington, DC. "We fully expected Gibson to be called to a teaching mission as well," says Brynn, "so when he got a call to a service mission, everyone was surprised. That was not the plan."

Photo courtesy of Brynn Porter

Elder Porter with his longtime friend and fellow missionary, Elder Alex Wiltbank.

Many people, including his stake president, had testified to the fact that he was quite capable of serving a teaching mission, when he submitted his papers, so they thoroughly expected him to be called away from home. When his stake president asked him what he wanted to do, Elder Porter replied that he would follow the guidance of the youth theme scripture for that year: Prov. 3:5,6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding." He chose to trust the Lord and the plan He had for him.

"We had worked so hard, for him to serve the same kind of mission as his dad had and as his brother was on," says Brynn, "We were worried that he was going to be shortchanged. But the blessings we have seen, with our teaching missionary and our service missionary, have been the same. I did not expect that. I soon realized that this was a gift from God, to watch him serve. He wants us to have a front row seat."

"Nothing in my life so far feels as good as this badge," says Elder Porter, "Nothing means as much as the names over my heart; the name of my family and the name of my savior Jesus Christ."

You can find Elder Porter serving at food banks, at the Easter Pageant, on the Mesa Arizona Temple early morning shift, giving talks and teaching Seminary three days a week at ALA Gilbert and Campo Verde High School. His mission leader's wife, Sister Holgate, gave him a challenge to look through the lyrics of the hymn**,** "More Holiness Give Me" and choose one of the lines to use as inspiration. Elder Porter chose "more used would I be" as his theme, and he does exactly that.

Photo courtesy of Brynn Porter

Elder Porter with his Service Mission Leaders, Elder and Sister Holgate.

Photo courtesy of Brynn Porter

The Porter Family: Left to right, Brynn Porter, Evynn Porter, Chase Porter, Nash Porter, Gibson Porter, Beau Porter and Mack Porter.

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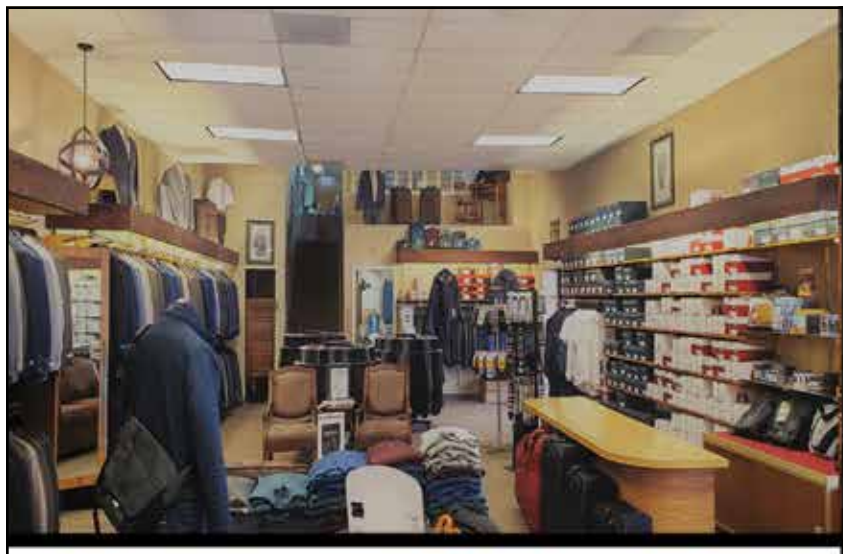

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What Is FamilySearch?

By Glen K. Tolman

If you ask the question "What is FamilySearch?" you may get a variety of answers. The most common answer might be that "FamilySearch helps me with my family history" or "It is the FamilySearch website FamilySearch.org."

FamilySearch is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to helping all people discover their story. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints provides FamilySearch free of charge to everyone regardless of tradition, culture, or religious affiliation. A one sentence FamilySearch purpose statement is "We create inspiring experiences that bring joy to all people as they discover, gather and connect their family past, present and future."

Learn about the history of FamilySearch at https://www.familysearch.org/en/about/. Several milestones are, in 1894 The Utah Genealogical Society predecessor of FamilySearch was founded; in 1938 started Microfilming paper documents; in 1964 the first local family history center opened (FamilySearch centers now provide in person help at more than 5000 locations); in 1999 the FamilySearch website launched; in 2002 the 1880 US Census became the first publicly searchable record collection; in 2011 First RootsTech Conference; in 2014 one billionth image of a historical record published.

For many years until it closed in September 2018, the Mesa Regional Family History Library located near the Mesa Temple was a valuable family history resource used by many. A new facility located on the second floor of the Mesa Temple Visitors' Center opened in August 2021. (See https://mesatemple.org/family-search-library/ for details.) The center provides free up-to-date computers and software including access to many premium family history websites, training classes, personal help from volunteers, equipment to digitize photos and other media including slides and VHS videos.

The resources made available by FamilySearch include FamilySearch.org with all its numerous features including the collaborative family tree containing over 1.4 billion personal profiles, mobile apps for Android and Apple IOS (FamilyTree, Memories, and Get Involved), and extensive personal and on-line help.

To access online help on FamilySearch.org, select the Help option in the upper right corner of the website (it is a question mark in a circle).

Parts of the Help option include FamilySearch centers, the Help Center (FamilySearch on-line help), Community (obtaining help from others not necessarily directly affiliated with FamilySearch), and Contact Us (contains regional phone numbers and hours help is available by phone).

Other areas providing assistance are the FamilySearch Research Wiki (a genealogy resource guide with over 100,000 articles) - https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Main_Page and The Family History Guide - https://thefhguide.com/ a FamilySearch partner provide valuable training and other assistance.

For more about FamilySearch listen to Steve Rockwood's 2023 RootsTech Keynote address https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/steve-rockwood-keynote-salt-palace?lang=eng

Another interesting message from RootsTech 2023 is "What's New at FamilySearch" https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/session/whats-new-at-familysearch-in-2023?lang=eng

FamilySearch starts with Family. Photo from Natik_1123 on Pixabay

Family HISTORY

THE GOSPEL IN A WORD

Overcome

By Emily Jex Boyle

Amid illness, storms and struggle, more than once, Jesus beckoned His followers to be of good cheer. Hours before the heaviness of Gethsemane and Calvary's bitter cross, Jesus added the why to his cheerful call. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace," He explains, "In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

What do you visualize when you read the word *overcome*? We courageously seek to overcome challenges and negative habits. Or, we might feel overcome at times either by the crushing weight or the majestic wonders of the world. The word reminds me of visits from the desert to the coasts of somewhere beautiful. In Laguna Beach, I was a child in agony at the first touch of slimy seaweed. Since then, time spent where the waves break is a mixed bag of exhilaration and exhaustion! I feel frequently overcome.

As years pass, I enjoy the rhythmic waves from the shore, observing those with skills chasing waves, surfing with grace. Perhaps, in heaven, I will not only swim deep with whales but surf, too!

While we may opt for the sidelines at the beach, we all inescapably encounter epic and intimidating surf in life. "You cannot stop the waves," one sign reads, "but, you can learn to surf." As we face proverbial waves, maybe our striving is less about achieving perfection and more about discovering joy in our divine worth and weakness before the ever loving heavens. Perhaps such efforts lead us to feeling more often overcome, "amazed at the love Jesus proffers [us]." In all our ebbs and flows, perhaps it's wise to remember that Christ's mission was to overcome the world. Our mission is to cleave to the joy that He did.

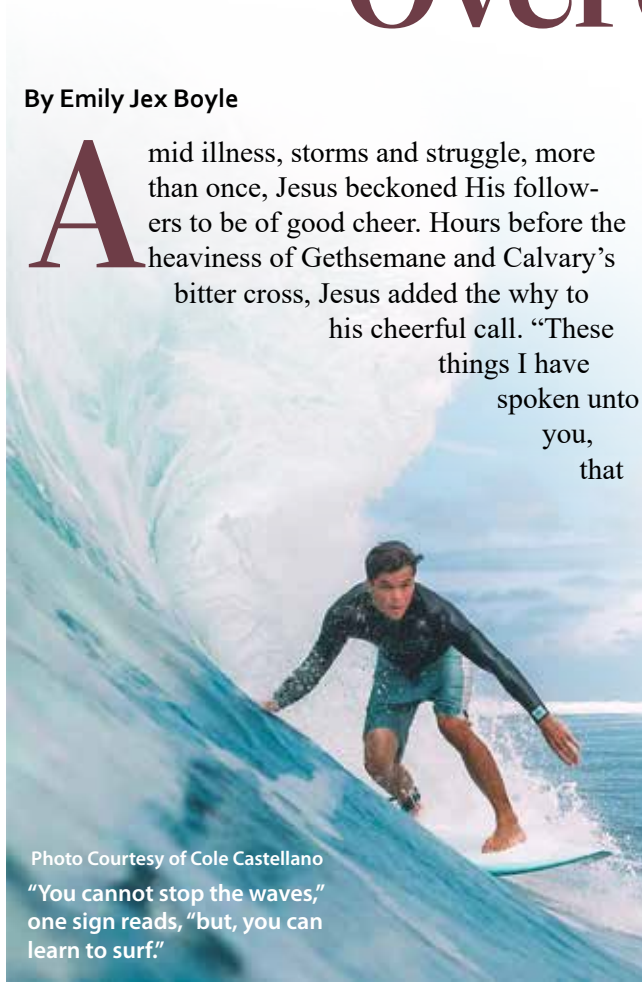

Photo Courtesy of Cole Castellano

"You cannot stop the waves," one sign reads, "but, you can learn to surf."

In a 2004 devotional address to Brigham Young University students, Sister Camille Fronk Olson speaks of the relationship between Christ's enabling power with our ability to rejoice amid life's challenges. She teaches, "Misfortune and hardship lose their tragedy when viewed through the lens of the Atonement." "Christ's mission," Olson points out, "was never intended to prevent hearts from breaking but to heal broken hearts; He came to wipe away our tears, not to ensure that we would never weep (see Revelation 7:17)." Olson identifies two prevalent false assumptions, on life's seas, inhibiting our desires to be joyful. First is the assumption we won't have any problems if we are good enough. Second is the thought that our trials come because we haven't done enough good. From her perspective, the apostle Paul best exemplifies our charge to be of good cheer. Following years of missionary service, he wrote the following from a Roman prison:

I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I

Continued on pg. 21

Self Reliance

For the power is in them wherein they are agents unto themselves.

~ D&C 58:28

By Nancy Rasmussen

"Seek learning, even by study and also by faith."

BYU-Pathway Education Program

When Henry B. Eyring was inaugurated as the president of Ricks College (now BYU-Idaho) 50 years ago, he stated then that Ricks College would "find direct ways to move the blessing of education ... from this campus out into the lives of men and women everywhere."

In 1998, David A. Bednar made similar comments in his inaugural address as president of Ricks College. "It will be necessary for us ... to serve ever better the thousands of students we have on campus while simultaneously reaching out to bless the lives of tens of thousands of young Latter-day Saints throughout the world."

In 2009, the fulfillment of Henry B. Eyring and David A. Bednar's words came to be when BYU-Idaho launched Pathway (also called PathwayConnect) — a one-year, reduced-cost, online program offered to students wherever they lived, with no need to ever come to a university campus. Pathway grew rapidly, from serving 50 students in the United States in 2009 to serving more than 14,000 in over 60 countries in 2016.

Photo by byupathway.org

In 2017, Pathway was forever changed when the First Presidency of the Church announced the creation of a new church-wide higher education organization to be called BYU-Pathway Worldwide. At the time of the change, President Dieter F. Uchtdorf said, "This organization will have responsibility for all online certificates and degree programs offered within the Church Educational System."

The Lord commands us to "seek learning, even by study and also by faith" (D&C 88:118). President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) taught: "We believe in education. This Church encourages education. There is incumbent upon every member of this Church, as a mandate from the Lord, to get all the education you can get. . . . There is incumbent upon the Latter-day Saints a dictum from the Lord Himself to educate our minds and our hands."

BYU-PW magnifies the commitment of the Church to dedicate resources to help members keep this commandment. At $79 per credit, BYU-Pathway Worldwide tuition is lower than nearly any other school. In addition, those seeking better employment can do so even before finishing a degree. Students may earn a marketable certificate in one year or less — while earning a bachelor's degree. Many students see a boost in their employability after completing a certificate, and then see an even bigger boost after earning a bachelor's degree. Certificates and degrees are available in various marketable programs.

BYU–PW also manages PathwayConnect, a program that prepares individuals to matriculate into certificates and degrees offered by its accredited partners within the Church Educational System.

Pathway alum Katie Winn recalls her experience. "The Pathway program is an inspired program that was an answer to my prayers. I had the desire to attend college, however I had six small children and a tight budget. I signed up for the program in 2013. Being able to go to school 100% online with budget

Photo by byupathway.org

friendly tuition was a tender mercy. The classes I took the first year helped strengthen my testimony, feel more confident in the online school environment, and gave me the tools I needed to be successful as I matriculated to BYU-I."

At BYU-Pathway, higher education means more than earning a degree. It means being inspired from on high through gospel-centered courses. 94% of students say that their participation in BYU-Pathway Worldwide increased their faith and testimony of Jesus Christ. All courses are online. Degrees are awarded by BYU-Idaho and Ensign College.

Much of the preceding was sourced from BYU-pathway.org. Please visit the web site to learn more and apply.

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PREP YOUR MISSIONARY

By Allison Beckert

Today's Future Missionaries: *An Age of Their Own*

The world changes quickly, with continually shifting challenges and culture. All youth are a product of their own age and can't be expected to be the same kind of missionaries as those past. The world is different, they're uniquely prepared, and in their preparation those strengths can be hard to see but should be encouraged.

Youth will and should be different from every generation before them. This is not by backsliding or lack of faith, but due to the trials of the world they've been born into and have lived. Even the internet isn't what their parents experienced – when once it was a wealth of open knowledge and trusted communication, it's now a tech-scape of companies buying and selling information and attention.

Social interaction is different as well. Safe in-person spaces are rare, and often expensive. Finding connection online through apps and shared media means groups that were less popular or acknowledged in previous generations are getting together and making a more tolerant place for themselves and others.

Generally, every generation will have a dim view of changes from when they were young to now as "now" continually shifts. That doesn't make either age group wrong, it just means the young deserve some grace as they work through what they want and how to get it for their lives.

Photo by Marcin from Pixabay

The global pandemic has changed everyone and continues to influence how people feel about their lives and spirituality.

Today's missionaries may be young, but they have strong literacy in a virtual world. They've lived through a pandemic as well as unprecedented financial problems in the world. They will serve and teach people who've been through the same things. The important thing is they know there are those hit harder, who've lost more than they have, who need the support the Gospel provides.

People are different. The people needing the gospel now are not the same as those experienced by missionaries of years past. In both foreign and domestic missions, uncertainty is raging. All this can be overwhelming when looked at widely, but our preparing and current missionaries will be carrying a message of individual strength through Christ. While the world certainly looks like it's in the end times, the gathering of Israel is about the hearts of individuals.

We don't have to understand to encourage. A foundation of faith shows up in good works, compassion, and tolerance with Christlike attributes. Charity, love, compassion, honesty, faith, and a willingness to strive are not tied to any one way to teach or communicate. These are more important to pursue than conformity, memorization, or extensive perfect recall of scripture. Where the heart is in the right place, the rest will follow.

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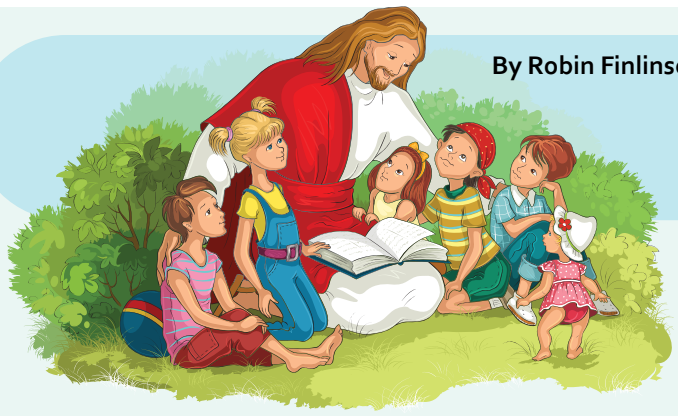
Comedy Corner

By Mark Randall

Our daughter, while driving long hours with her 5 children on the interstate one day, was stopped by the highway patrol for speeding. The officer asked "Do you know how fast you were traveling?" Not wanting to incriminate herself, our daughter replied, "I'm not sure!" The officer then explained, "I clocked you on radar traveling at 85 miles per hour!" Our 7 year old grandson popped up from the backseat and happily exclaimed, "Aw, that's nothin'! I've seen her do a hundred!" Needless to say, she got the ticket...



By Robin Finlinson

Come Follow Me

This article supports the readings in the manual titled *"Come, Follow Me—For Individuals and Families"* in May and June, 2023— comprising the final chapters of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in the New Testament of the Holy Bible.

Be Assured:

The Chief Cornerstone Will Be Placed Again

Jesus Christ Himself is the Chief Cornerstone of His Church. If there is one cornerstone, there must be three others. What are they, and why is the placement of the Chief among them significant?

In October, 1984, President Gordon B. Hinckley told how construction of ancient temples began with cornerstones. He taught, "Starting at a point of beginning, the foundation wall would be run in one direction to a cornerstone; then the corner would be turned and the wall run to the next corner…The final stone was spoken of as the chief cornerstone, and its placement became the reason for much celebration. With this cornerstone in position, the foundation was ready for the superstructure." (General Conference talk: "The Cornerstones of Our Faith.")

The other cornerstones are the following: prophecy and revelation through Prophets/Apostles; Priesthood; and Scripture.

As earth's Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ is the point of beginning. It is He who then called the Prophets, from Adam to John the Baptist. They received revelation from Him. The Holy Priesthood after the Order of the Son of God was bestowed upon them to conduct the spiritual affairs of His covenant people with the requisite authority. And as special witnesses of Him and mouthpieces for Him, what they declared was recorded as Holy Scripture.

The preliminary cornerstones were established to prepare people to receive Him. When He came in the meridian of time, those spiritually ready did so with celebration and incomparable joy. King David's descendant had come! And the Master Teacher added abundantly to their former understanding.

Though Christ did and taught only the will of the Father, many rejected His gospel of servant leadership, His ways of achieving peace, and His rightful claim as the Son of God. He allowed them to crucify Him, and the Chief Cornerstone removed Himself from the earth.

Artwork by Tanner Finlinson, age 16.

The four foundational cornerstones of The Church of Jesus Christ—both anciently and in the latter days.

Eventually, the 12 special witnesses (Apostles) He had chosen during His personal ministry were removed, as was, therefore, Priesthood authority.

However, before Christ's death, He said they would receive the Holy Ghost, by whom they would recall all He had taught them (John 14:26). They remembered, for instance, that Christ is the Chief or Head Cornerstone, of whom the psalmist prophesied. (Psalm 118:22; Matt. 21:42-45; Ephesians 2:19-22).

Jesus also said that the fruit they would bring forth [their record of the new covenant with His people] "should remain" (John 15:4, 5, 16). That record, and that of earlier prophets, would together form the only cornerstone left on earth for centuries. And it miraculously remained mostly intact.

In 1820, a teenage boy was ardently reading the word of God recorded by the Apostles. Christ would choose him, Joseph Smith, to be a special witness of Him and receive His Priesthood. Joseph would, through revelation, restore truths that had crumbled away from the old cornerstone of Scripture. He would also receive and translate a sacred record written and hidden by ancient people on the American continent. Preserved for the latter-day fullness of times, the Book of Mormon is named after the special witness of Christ assigned by Him to compile it. Only one Cornerstone is yet to be restored.

Jesus Christ is the Stone of Israel, the Author and Finisher of our faith, the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last. He will be sent again from His Father. And among His prepared people, He will remain.

See also Isaiah 28:16; Amos 3:7; Matt. 20:25-28; 28:16-20; Mark 12:1-12; Luke 14:16-24; 24:48, 49; John 6:38; 13:20; 14:27; 20:21, 30, 31; 21:14, 25; Joseph Smith—Matthew 1:3, 26; Matt. 21:42-45 (JST); Luke 16:15-17 (JST); Helaman 5:12; D&C 50:45, 46.

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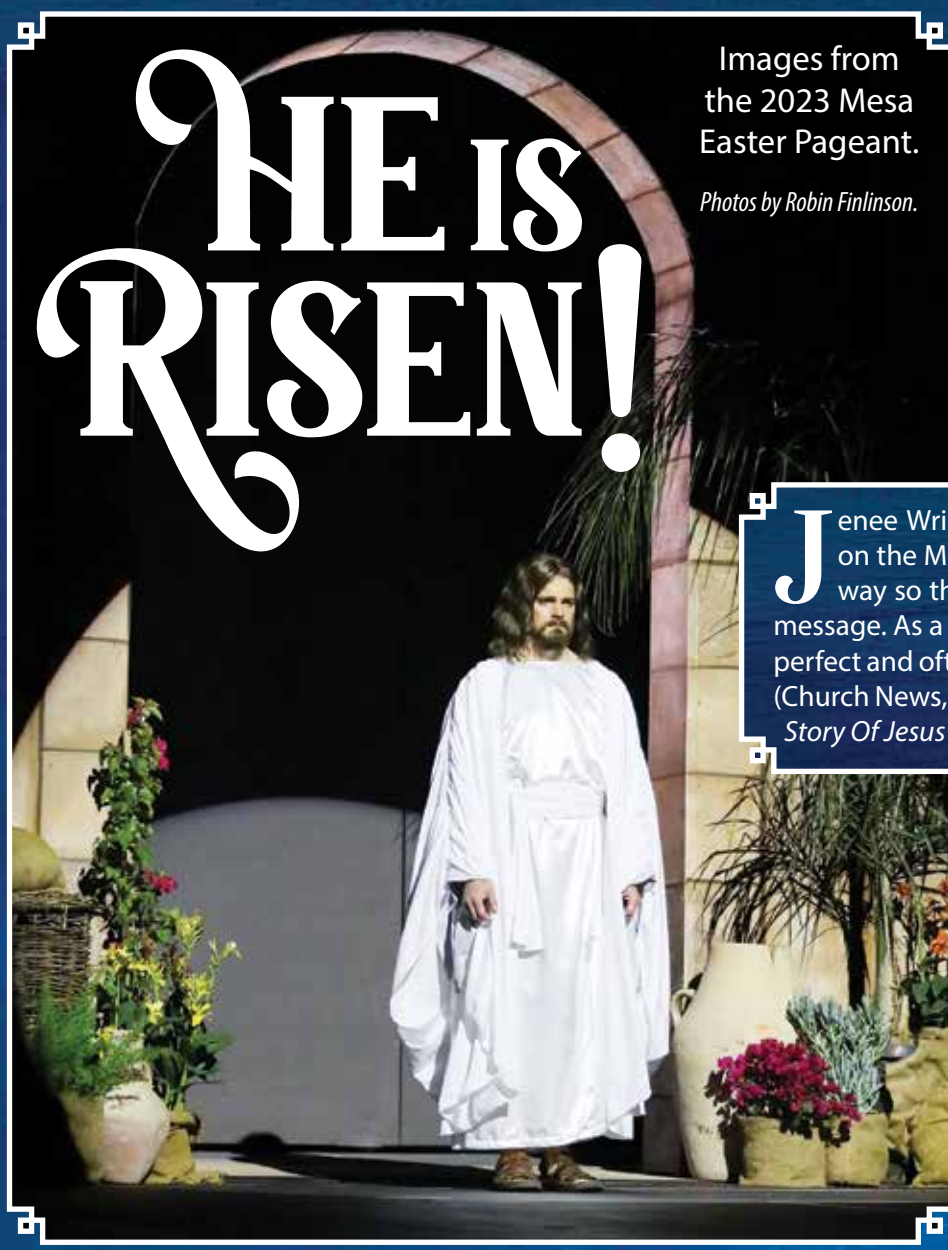
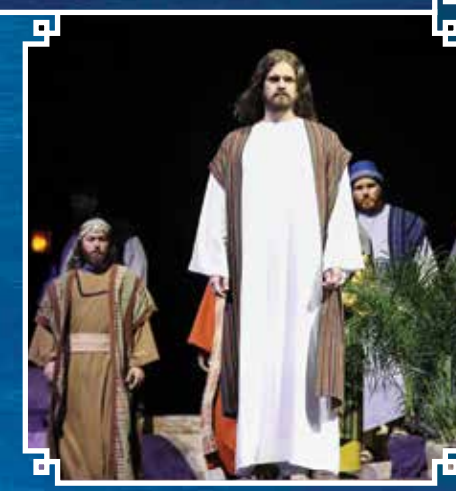
He is Risen!

Images from the 2023 Mesa Easter Pageant.

Photos by Robin Finlinson.



Jenee Wright Prince, pageant director since 2012, explains the task at hand putting on the Mesa Easter Pageant: "We have the task of portraying the life of the Savior in a way so that hundreds of thousands of people can feel the Spirit in a beautiful Easter message. As a cast, we are there to present the story of the Savior. Even though we are imperfect and often fall short, the Lord always fills in the gap. Always makes up the difference." (Church News, March 17, 2016 as quoted in *The Mesa Easter Pageant - 80 Years of Sharing The Story Of Jesus Christ* by Jill Bishop Adair & Cecily Markland Condie)



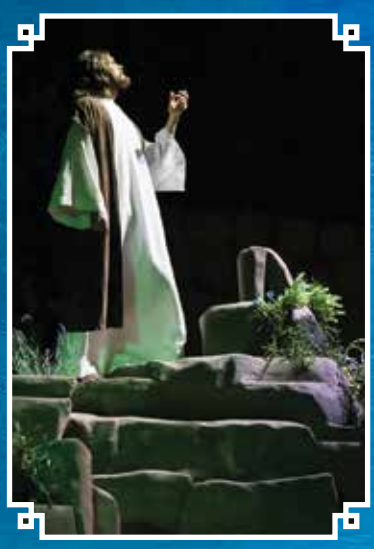


Photo by MTC for Kids social media

MTC for Kids facebook banner.

My Testimony of Christ

MTC for Kids Family Blog

By Allison Beckert

Teaching children is such a focus of family life, especially when we know how important living the Gospel is to a strong testimony. While Primary classes are a valuable part of gospel learning, teaching children a Christ centered life begins at home. Tools to help are everywhere, and one powerful resource is MTC For Kids.

MTC (My Testimony of Christ) For Kids is a robust family blog, YouTube channel, and Etsy shop packed with material for you and your primary age children to use at home.

This is a family endeavor, and the videos that make up the bulk of the Come Follow Me children's content feature creator and mom Melia, and her two youngest children. Melia clearly has a lot of practice teaching and raising kids in the Gospel. Her family includes 5 children from college age to elementary school.

Like other supplemental study materials by faithful saints online, MTC For Kids includes weekly Come Follow Me lesson materials. These videos are bright, engaging, and geared for kids. Starring in the videos are Abbie and Charlie who go on a scavenger hunt for clues about the scripture block for the week, and who bring back their discoveries to their mom Melia. With those clues, the lesson begins, focused on the main points of the scripture block and what those principles look like in real life. There are a few layers to these lessons, from simple visual aids and word play for memorization to thoughtful questions to bring to older kids for discussion.

Come Follow Me material isn't the only offering from MTC for Kids. There's a wealth of content for all different topics. A personal favorite has been the Singing Time videos and printables. Each song available includes a video with written lyrics as it's sung. For most songs there are visual aids, from lyric cards to put up on chalk boards to story paddles for holding up each scene with the lyrics.

Seasonal activities are available, too, like Light the World at Christmastime. Recently with this year's April Conference, a 15-day Countdown to Conference activity was available, along with several activity kits to help focus children on the talks. A favorite was the leadership bingo cards, with a variety of ways to play and learn the names of the Apostles and Prophets.

Photo by MTC for Kids social media

MTC for Kids badge.

MTC For Kids will particularly appeal to parents of children ages 4 to 10. Primary teachers will also find useful tools here, either to present themselves or help children present to their peers. Parents will appreciate the prepared material to use in Family Home Evening lessons and to help children prepare talks in primary.

All content is available at mtcforkids.com, and they also maintain a YouTube channel and Esty store. Subscribe for updates and notifications when new videos drop on the channel, and when new products are made available.

This Work Changes Lives

Church Member Clark Richter Gives His Time, Effort and Energy to A New Leaf

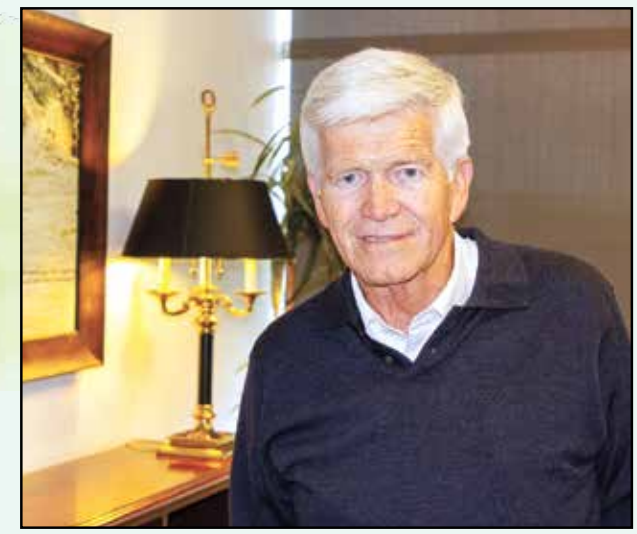


Photo courtesy of A New Leaf

A New Leaf volunteer Clark Richter.

By A New Leaf

Clark Richter strongly believes in serving his local community, volunteering regularly with his wife and son to help those in need. With a passion for helping children and families in crisis, Clark chose to work with A New Leaf, an organization working in his own neighborhood.

"When it comes to the most urgent and visible issues in our community, like helping those experiencing homelessness and domestic violence, no one provides better services than A New Leaf. So, when I was looking at where to spend my time and effort, I felt that this organization was the right one."

For over 20 years Clark has served meals in homeless shelters, donated to help children in need, and has served as a board member at A New Leaf. His dedication and effort have brought transformational services and support to tens of thousands of families across the Valley.

"This work changes lives, and you really need to see it first hand to know how powerful it can be. I encourage you - get involved with organizations like A New Leaf, volunteer at shelters and community centers, and donate to charity. As members of the Church, I believe we have an obligation to participate in these kinds of activities."

A 40-year veteran employee at the Mesa-based law firm Udall Shumway, Clark has been a strong advocate for getting community leaders and institutions more involved in charity. He believes that charitable giving and volunteering not only benefits the recipients, but that it also strengthens the character of those who participate.

"Serving allows you to change lives, but it also helps you build your own life. You meet some of the most incredible and kind people in the world when you serve your community. I have been privileged to serve with the likes of Michael Hughes, Frank Bennett, Mike Hutchinson, and Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo and several others at A New Leaf. They have taught me so much about how to live a meaningful life, and how to go about doing good."

If you are looking to serve your community like Clark, visit TurnaNewLeaf.org.

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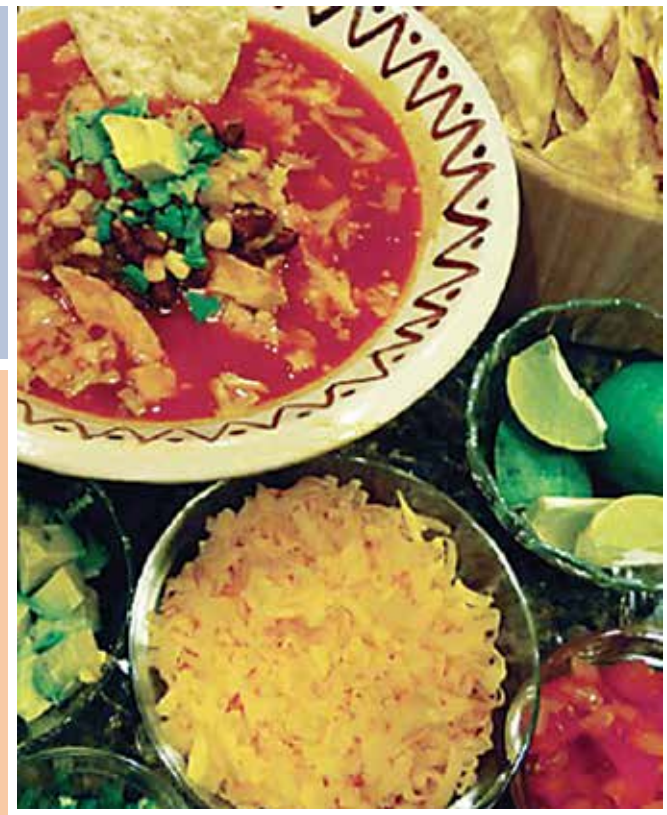
What's Cooking?

By The Arizona Beehive Magazine

LJ'S CHICKEN TORTILLA SOUP AND BLACK BEAN & CORN SALSA

Time to make your next dinner a fiesta grande! Mexican food is delicious and can be a healthy way to feed your family. Mix up this great and easy salsa as a starter with chips, and follow it with this Tortilla Soup. This soup is loaded with chicken ... and with a few staple ingredients such as canned corn and black beans, it's an easy crowd pleaser.



SOUP INGREDIENTS:

- 2 large ripe avocados, halved and pitted
- 1/4 cup fresh Lime juice + 1 T
- 1 T olive oil
- 1 c white onion, chopped
- 2 – 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 6 cups chicken stock
- 4 – 6 chicken breasts - bone in
- 1 packet of taco seasoning
- 1 can drained sweet corn
- 1 can drained and rinsed kidney beans
- 1 can drained and rinsed black beans
- 1 jalapeno, seeded and minced
- 2 lg. can of diced tomatoes w/chiles
- 1 can Ortega chiles – diced
- 2 T chopped cilantro
- Salt to taste

SOUP INSTRUCTIONS

Dice avocado into a bowl and add 1 T lime juice. Toss and set aside. In large stock pot, heat olive oil and sauté onion and garlic approximately 10 minutes. Add broth, chicken and taco seasoning and bring to a boil. Lower heat, and cook until meat is white throughout, about 15 – 20 minutes. Remove chicken breasts and set aside to cool. To the broth, add corn, beans, jalapeno, canned tomatoes and green chilis.

Once cooled enough to handle, shred chicken and return to saucepan. Allow to simmer for at least 30 minutes. To serve, ladle soup into individual bowls and top with any or all of the following toppings shown below:

SALSA INGREDIENTS:

- 1 can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can corn kernels, drained (frozen or fresh cooked)
- ½ medium sweet red pepper, chopped small
- ½ medium red onion, chopped small
- ½ c finely diced ripe tomato
- ¼ c chopped cilantro
- 4 green onions, chopped
- 2 fresh jalapeno peppers, seeded and minced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1- 2 t TABASCO® brand hot sauce
- 2 T lime juice
- 1 t salt

SALSA INSTRUCTIONS

In a mixing bowl, toss together all the ingredients. Taste, and adjust seasonings if necessary. Let sit at room temperature for 30 minutes or refrigerate for at least one hour before serving. Serve with tortilla chips.

Chopped avocado | Grated cheddar cheese | Sliced green onions | Sliced black olives
Sour cream | Diced Roma tomatoes | Chopped cilantro | Lime wedges | Broken tortilla chips

Muddy Valley Reflections
Continued from pg. 8

recording for posterity the birth, life and carrying on of a specific geographical piece of the country.

Born in 1945 in Ely, Nevada, Beezy Lani moved to Logandale to attend high school, and has been a resident ever since. She married her Logandale native sweetheart Glade Neils Tobiasson in 1961 and raised a family of five. She began writing her book in 2003.

Beezy is a trained public health professional, and a local historian. Author, up until *Muddy Valley Reflections* was written, was not on her resume. Why take on such a daunting task chronicling the history of the valley, its river and the families that have called this place "home" since the mid-nineteenth century?

"The driving force and strongest advocate for writing this book was my Mother," explains Beezy. "Some 53 years ago she said, 'Ginny, I think you should write the history of this valley and its people. It is rich in history and should be written.' I pointed out to her that I'm not from here, but she reminded me that my husband and children are. And our grands and great-grands, too!" With that in mind, here I am, with 8 years of research, interviews and personal interest stories of hundreds of valley folks."

Of course, Beezy had help assembling this tome, which she gratefully acknowledges. Her assistant Georgia May Bagshaw Hall received author credit on the work. Bagshaw Hall describes the kind of history she loves as "get-in-there-and-get-your-hands-dirty history!" She continues, "I love genealogy, digging through old books and old papers in old libraries and courthouses. I love to search through old cemeteries for headstones long forgotten. I have always wanted to be a writer, so I jumped at the chance to become Beezy's assistant."

In January, 2011, NBC's "The Today Show" announced that a Bloomberg Businessweek Magazine article named Moapa Valley as the "Best place to raise kids in the state of Nevada." Beezy's responded to this news, exclaiming, "This is about the best tribute we could pay to those settlers who stuck it out through thick and thin. They thought this was a place worth calling home, and many of their families have done so for generations." And who better to determine such than a woman who wrote the book on Muddy Valley history!

Muddy Valley Reflections: 145 Years of Settlement, Vols 1-3 are available for purchase by calling the Old Logandale School: (702) 398-7272. Ask for Robin.

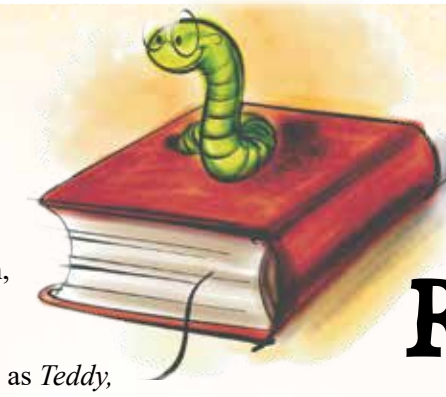
The Gospel In A Word
Continued from pg. 14

am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

I can do all things through Christ [who] strengtheneth me." [Philippians 4:11–13]

Paul learned to be a graceful, spiritual surfer. When "dark clouds of trouble" hang over us, may we daily chase our waves, cleaving to our faith in the Master of oceans and earth and skies.

A True Exciting Summer Read for Middle-Graders



Beehive BOOK REVIEW

By Cindy R. Williams

Teddy, A Boy who Swam with Angles by Arizona author Sandra Sorenson-Kindt is part of the author's "Live Courageously" collection for early middle-grade readers and is taken from actual events.

Nine-year-old Teddy loves the book series *The Famous Five* and wanted his own adventure. During a family July 4th camping trip by the Salt River in Arizona, Teddy decides to explore on his own. He wanders off into the Sonoran Desert for his great adventure.

That day in the desert was a scorcher, and Teddy yearned to cool off in the Salt River. He remembers his promise to his parents never to go swimming without an adult. As he struggles with this promise he decides he can still keep the promise by getting just close enough to the river to splash some water on himself to cool down. However, there are weeds and grasses near the edge of the water, and it is muddy. The worst happens! He slips into the river and is swept away in a strong current.

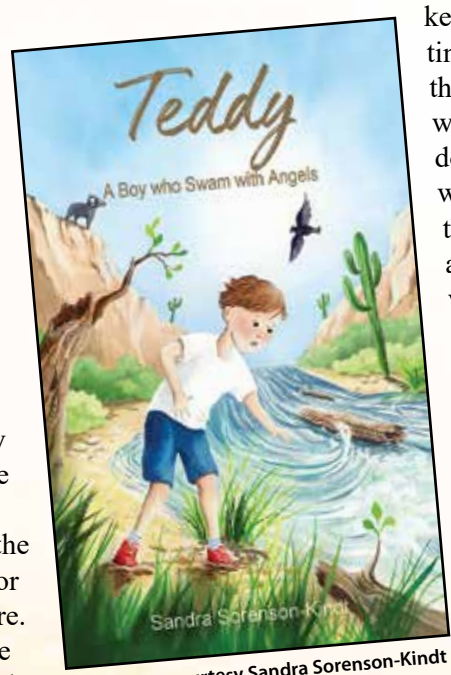


Photo courtesy Sandra Sorenson-Kindt

This adventure quickly turns into a dangerous and possibly life-threatening situation as Teddy is tossed about in the rapids.

The story is one of great faith, choice, consequences, and miracles as *Teddy, A Boy who Swam with Angles*, comes to terms with life.

This book is a page-turner.

With remarkable research conducted by the author, this true story comes to life with humor and wonder. Sorenenson-Kindt's writing style is one that young readers will find captivating and colorful as they travel along with Teddy on his remarkable adventure.

Photo courtesy Sandra Sorenson-Kindt
Author, Sandra Sorenson-Kindt.

The book gives a clear picture of the day in the life of a young boy about eighty years ago. The timeline of the story is also a throwback to yesteryear and shows how truth, honor, and faith never change.

Sorenenson-Kindt includes twelve discussion questions in the back of the book for adults to use as talking and teaching points as they visit with children.

Teddy, A Boy who Swam with Angles, is available on Amazon and at www.sandrasorensonkindtauthor.com.

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A Passion For Numbers

By Lin Sue Flood

Hospice Team Helps 101-Year-Old Math Whiz Share Secret to Solving Rubik's Cube

All photos courtesy of Hospice of the Valley

Math professor JW Gaberdiel listens to Dr. Evar Nering explain his formula for solving the Rubik's Cube.

Dr. Evar Nering's passion for numbers has only grown stronger over a century of living.

The 101-year-old began his career as a young man at Princeton, earning his Ph.D. in Mathematics. He later helped create an algorithm for linear programming that garnered five patents. He spent three decades teaching at Arizona State University, building its math program and chairing the department for eight years.

Obviously, Evar has a lot of experience with equations, theorems and statistics. But his most pressing challenge is the one he is facing now: How to share his algorithm for solving the Rubik's Cube.

Most people abandon the frustrating 3D puzzle within a few minutes. But not Evar. He was so intrigued that he set out to create a mathematical formula that anyone could use.

"I've seen videos of people working the Rubik's Cube super fast, but I can't tell what's happening," the Scottsdale resident chuckles. "I'm not about speed or competing. At my age, I just want to give my algorithm to the world — as my legacy."

As soon as Evar's Hospice of the Valley care team heard about his dream, they wanted to help. "Even at 101, he is very mentally alert and loves to talk about math," said social worker Alanna Ambos. "We decided to connect him with someone who shares that same joy."

So, Alanna and nurse Bonnie Lazzeri teamed with Evar's daughter and caregiver to reach out to a math professor at Gateway Community College. JW Gaberdiel agreed to visit Evar to learn about his formula.

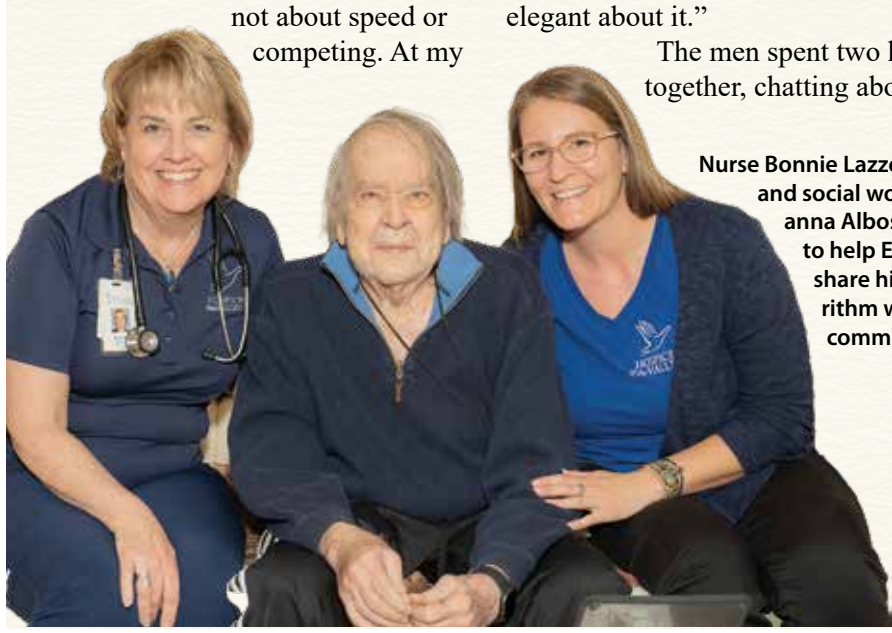
"Evar's algorithm is for any cube size and that's part of its power," JW said. "His approach is symmetric and beautiful, but not necessarily fast. That is also its charm. There's something elegant about it."

The men spent two hours together, chatting about Evar's life, career and dream to help all of us conquer the Rubik's Cube.

"I like the challenge of solving problems," Evar admitted. "And getting my algorithm out there in the public domain is just one more thing to figure out."

In the meantime, he's sharing it with us. Visit https://hov.org/media/3016/evar-paper.pdf to read it for yourself.

Hospice of the Valley patients have amazing life stories. Those interested in volunteering to provide companionship visits can apply at hov.org/volunteer.



Nurse Bonnie Lazzeri (left) and social worker Alanna Albos want to help Evar share his algorithm with our community.

Evar's algorithm works on every size of Rubik's Cube.

VALLEY TEMPLE SCHEDULES

Additional Information:

- Appointments for proxy ordinances are encouraged. Patrons without appointments are also welcome, but may be asked to wait for an opportunity to participate. To schedule or modify a proxy appointment, visit your temple's information at https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/temples
- Patrons are encouraged to bring their own temple clothing.
- Ordinances for family names must be done in proper sequence—baptism, confirmation, Melchizedek Priesthood ordination (males), initiatory, endowment, and then sealing. Please allow sufficient time to perform all the ordinances you wish to complete during your visit. For additional help and information, please call the temple.
- Please contact the temple for more information or if you have special circumstances or needs.
- Temple websites can be found by searching churchofjesuschrist.org/temples

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